



Dear Neighbor,

This week the Missouri Legislature approved House Bill 3014, a \$4.6 billion supplemental spending bill that Governor Mike Parson has already signed into law.

Just one day ago, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education exhausted its spending authority for reimbursing local schools for the costs of student meals.

Additionally, timely action was needed to prevent the state Medicaid program from exhausting its spending authority as well.

This bill also included a 5.5 percent pay increase for state workers and spending authority to ensure no state employee earns less than \$15 an hour.

The Special Committee on Public Policy that I'm ranking minority member on heard legislation to legalize professional sports wagering in our state.

Supporters of the bill have shown that Missouri is losing massive amounts of tax revenue to neighboring states like Illinois that have already legalized sports wagering. Not surprisingly, every

professional sports team in the state had representatives present to testify in favor of the legislation as well as nearly every operating casino in the state.

**Locally, the Hickman Mills School District is hosting a free Family Summit March 5th from 10am-1pm at Smith-Hale Middle School, 9010A Old Santa Fe Rd., that will include a job fair, health fair and a kids zone (pre-K-8th grade).**

**Anyone in KCMO needing a smoke detector in their residence should call 816-513-4648 to make the request. The Kansas City Fire Department will deliver and install up to two smoke detectors with ten-year batteries in KCMO residences that need them for no charge.**

Lastly, many of our schools have a terrible shortage of substitute teachers. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a substitute teacher or finding work as a substitute teacher please visit the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website or contact your local school districts.

If anyone would like to contact me about legislation they would like me to support or oppose, please email me at [Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov](mailto:Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov).

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my legislative aide [Kaylee Bauer](#) is ready to help you.

**Please scroll down to read about other state government matters and important upcoming local events.**

Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends and family who might want to know the latest news about what is happening in state government and about important local events. Be safe and God bless.

Yours in Service,  
*Mark A. Sharp*



I recently talked with my fellow member of the House Crime Prevention Committee - Rep. Brian Seitz, R-Branson - about House Bill 1680 that I introduced to require any person convicted of drunk driving to have a working ignition interlock device in his or her

vehicle that prevents it from being started if the driver has had too much alcohol to drink for at least six months after his or her license is reinstated. The committee will vote on this bill February 28th.

## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

### **Friday, February 25th, 2022**

#### **LAWMAKERS APPROVE SPENDING BILL**

The House of Representatives voted 133-12 on Feb. 24 to grant final passage to a nearly \$4.6 billion supplemental appropriations bill distributing billions of dollars in federal pandemic relief funds to local public school districts and fully funding the state's Medicaid program for the rest of the 2022 fiscal year, among other spending allocations.

The House action came a day after the Senate approved the bill on a 25-7 vote.

**Passage of the bill also came a day after the Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education exhausted its spending authority for reimbursing local schools for the cost of student meals.**

That authority will be replenished by the bill - House Bill 3014 -

which Gov. Mike Parson signed into law just hours after its passage.

**The final bill includes funding for a 5.5% pay increase for state workers and spending authority to ensure no state employee earns less than \$15 an hour.**

**Although Parson requested that pay plan, some influential House Republicans thought the requested wage floor was too high and cut it to just \$12 an hour for workers in most state agencies. A Senate committee later restored the governor's full pay plan, which Parson deems necessary to attract and retain state employees amid a highly competitive labor market.**

Parson had wanted the bill finalized by Feb. 1 so that the pay increases could take effect then, but the House shelved it for four weeks before finally advancing it to the Senate, where action on the bill was further delayed for days amid a spat between a small group of hardline conservative Republicans and the chamber's Republican leaders. While the hardliners ultimately allowed the bill to come to a final vote, they all voted against it.

**Timely action was needed within the next few weeks to prevent the state Medicaid program from exhausting its spending authority.**

Key Republicans intentionally underfunded Medicaid in the 2022 fiscal year state budget in a last-ditch attempt to thwart a voter-mandated expansion of the program to cover more uninsured Missourians, but the Missouri Supreme Court later ruled the state was required to provide coverage for the expanded population.

**Lawmakers also faced a March 24 deadline for allocating about \$2 billion in federal money for local schools or the state would have forfeited the funding.**

## **JUDGE UPHOLDS SHERIFFS' RAISES**

A Cole County judge on Feb. 22 ruled that a new state law resulting in automatic annual pay increases for county sheriffs was constitutionally enacted.

Lawmakers passed the challenged provision last year as part of Senate Bill 53, wide-ranging legislation that also strictly limits police use of respiratory chokeholds and eliminates the city residency requirement for Kansas City police officers, along with numerous other provisions related to public safety.

**The County Commissioners Association of Missouri filed the lawsuit in November to challenge a provision tying the salaries of county sheriffs to a percentage of the pay for state associate circuit judges, who currently earn nearly \$147,000 a year. Since state judges' salaries are linked to how much federal judges earn, and federal judges receive annual pay hikes under federal law, the law effectively grants county sheriffs yearly pay raises and requires counties to fund them.**

The association argued that when enacting SB 53, lawmakers violated state constitutional provisions prohibiting bills from being changed from their original purpose or containing multiple subjects or provisions that aren't clearly reflected in the bill's title.

**As originally filed, SB 53 was a single-page bill prohibiting Kansas City police officers from being required to reside in the city. The final version of the bill ballooned to include dozens of provisions spanning 176 pages.**

**Despite the massive expansion, Cole County Circuit Judge Dan Green ruled the bill complied with all constitutional**

**requirements.**

An appeal in the case, *County Commissioners Association of Missouri v. State of Missouri*, is expected.

## **CRIPPLING PETITION PROCESS ADVANCES**

The House of Representatives on Feb. 24 granted first-round approval to a rather convoluted proposed constitutional amendment that would make it much harder to amend the Missouri Constitution via the initiative petition process.

**It marked the second time in as many weeks that the chamber supported an effort to cripple the right to propose amendments to the state constitution through the initiative petition process.**

The latest attempt, House Joint Resolution 91, would increase the number of signatures of registered voters required to use the initiative petition process to place a constitutional amendment on the statewide ballot. It would require 8% of registered voters in every congressional district in Missouri to sign such petitions instead of only requiring that number of signatures from two thirds of the congressional districts.

It also would require that constitutional amendments proposed through the initiative process or by the General Assembly would require approval by two thirds of the votes cast when put on the ballot instead of by just a simple majority as now required.

**However, any constitutional amendment “proposing to repeal all or part of the constitution that was approved by the voters prior to December 10, 2022,” would only take a simple majority of the votes cast for approval.**



**That provision appears to be designed to make it easier to repeal the constitutional amendment to expand Medicaid in Missouri to cover more uninsured Missourians that voters approved in 2020.**

A second vote is required to send HJR 91 to the Senate.

Another proposed constitutional amendment that would make it extremely difficult to successfully use the initiative petition process to amend the state constitution - House Joint Resolution 70 - is also awaiting a second vote in the House after receiving preliminary approval before being sent to the Senate for consideration.

**HJR 70 would require that any constitutional amendments put on the ballot by the initiative petition process would require approval in a statewide vote by a majority of all registered voters in the state, including those who didn't vote in the election.**

**With the exception of elections with very high turnouts, that number often is higher than the total number of votes cast in many statewide elections.**

Is passed by the Senate, both these measures would go on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot and require just a simple majority for approval.

### **THWARTING MEDICAID EXPANSION PASSES**

The House of Representatives on Feb. 24 voted 95-45 to advance a proposed constitutional amendment aimed at undoing a voter-mandated expansion of eligibility for the state's Medicaid program.

The measure which I voted against, House Joint Resolution 117, now goes to the Senate.

**Missouri voters ratified an amendment to the state constitution**



**to expand Medicaid to cover more uninsured Missourians in 2020, but key Republican legislators attempted to stop its implementation in 2021 by blocking sufficient funding in the state budget to cover the added recipients.**

The state Supreme Court subsequently ruled the constitution requires the state to provide coverage for all persons who are now eligible.

**HJR 117 would accomplish what the Supreme Court ruled isn't currently allowed by amending the constitution to grant lawmakers the power to block coverage for the expanded population if they don't specifically appropriate funding to serve the newly eligible recipients.**

If the Senate also approves HJR 117, it would go on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot for voter approval.

KANSAS CITY MISSOURI HEALTH DEPARTMENT



# FREE COVID-19 TESTING

Every day of the week

Feb. 10 - March 1 // 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

BRUCE R. WATKINS CULTURAL CENTER  
3700 BLUE PKWY, KCMO 64130

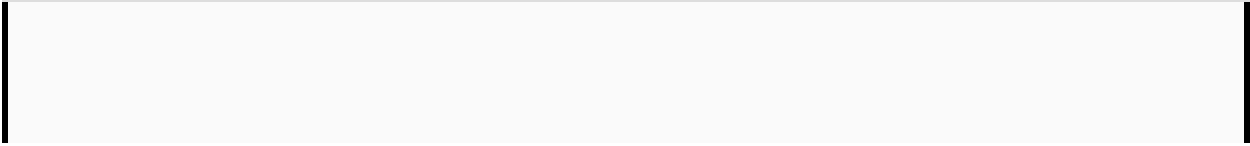
**DoINeedaCOVID19Test.com**



 **SCAN ME**

TO MAKE AN  
APPOINTMENT  
or call  
**1- 800-635-8611**







**JOIN US... We've assembled the vital resources that YOU requested for your family, home and career!**

**FOR DETAILS VISIT**

[www.hickmanmills.org/familysummit](http://www.hickmanmills.org/familysummit)

**10am – 1pm**

Smith-Hale Middle School | 9010A Old Santa Fe Road | Kansas City, MO 64138

**Volunteers Needed Please Call (816) 316-7040**

**MARCH**  
**5<sup>th</sup>**  
**2022**

**Job Fair**  
**Health Fair**  
**Kids Zone**  
**(Pre-K – 8th Grade)**

Inspired & led by HMC-1 Parents!



**@HMC1Proud**



Corporate Sponsorships Are Also Available!

Find more information and registration form at  
[Martincity.org/st-patricks-parade/](https://martincity.org/st-patricks-parade/)

For questions call (816) 308-1023 or  
email: [manager@martincity.org](mailto:manager@martincity.org)

**Deadline for entries is February 27, 2022**



# Medicaid Enrollment

We can help!

**Kansas City Health Department**

2400 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64108

Every Tuesday 12:00pm - 4:00pm

## FREE assistance

from experts with

**KC Care Health Center & Swope Health**

(Since Medicaid was expanded to include more people,  
you could be eligible!)



**swopeHEALTH**





## SPORTS, COOKING & ARTS

Every Wednesday Night  
5:00 - 7:30 PM

- Open to Ages 8-13
- Dinner Provided

9701 Marion Park Drive | KCMO 64137  
2ND BUILDING ON CAMPUS IN THE GYM



ONE TIME REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR!



# FREE

## Smoke Alarm

### 816-513-4648

### KCFD

CITY OF  
KANSAS CITY,  
MISSOURI

For more Fire Safety information visit:

## KCMO.GOV/FIRE

# KIDS EAT FREE



## MEAL DISTRIBUTION

- CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT -

**UNITED BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH  
5600 E. 112 TERRACE, KCMO 64134**

**FRIDAY'S 3PM - 6PM**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT 314.701.7245 OR EMAIL US  
AT [KIDSEATFREE@INFLUENCECHURCH.COM](mailto:KIDSEATFREE@INFLUENCECHURCH.COM)

*\*THIS SITE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER*



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## South KC Mobile Food Pantries

Many families in south Kansas City are being forced to rely on community food pantries such as Community Assistance Council's to have enough to eat.

Fortunately, Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to seven sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

**Center School District**, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as long as food is left on the first Saturday of the month. Persons should drive through the bus parking lot to the district warehouse. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

**Center District Warehouse**, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month. Persons should go to the entrance to the Center Administrative Office and drive through the bus parking lot to the warehouse where volunteers will load the food. Persons should take the Troost Ave exit. The event is sponsored by the Center Education Foundation in partnership with the Center School District.

**Evangel Church**, 1414 E. 103<sup>rd</sup> St., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Persons may remain in their vehicles, and food will be brought to them.

**United Believers Community Church**, 5600 E. 112th Terr., with vehicles lining up at 8:30 a.m. and contactless food distribution running from 9 to 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

**Ruskin High School**, 7000 E. 111<sup>th</sup> St., from 4 to 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Vehicles should line up on Ruskin Way on the east side of the school, and staff and students will load the food when vehicles reach the

school.

**Colonial Presbyterian Church**, 9500 Wornall Rd., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and food distribution running from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Families are asked to bring two cardboard boxes for volunteers to put the food in.

**Red Bridge United Methodist Church**, 636 E. 117<sup>th</sup> St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.



REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS



TIPS HOTLINE

**816-474-8477**



WEB TIPS

**KCcrimestoppers.com**



FREE MOBILE APP

**P3Tips.com**



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**Missouri House of Representatives**

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**Please don't hesitate to contact me  
with any feedback, questions or ideas!**

